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Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 03761 151920Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3761

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, MILI, NATO
SUBJ: MEETING OF THE NATO AEW STEERING COMMITTEE (AC/259-

HLG(SC) ON 2 JULY 75 AT NATO HQS

SECDEF FOR DDR&E/TWP/IP/AND ISA; CSAF FOR AFRDP, AFCCG, AFRDQ;
ALL NATO CAPITALS FOR MAAGS AND DAOS

BEGIN SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS SIGNIFICANT ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE AWACS HI-LEVEL GROUP MEETING AT NATO HQ ON 2 JULY 75. KEY SUBJECTS INCLUDED: 1) PREFINANCING, (2) TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STEERING COMMITTEE AND PROGRAM OFFICE, (3)CHAIRMAN'S GUIDANCE ON HOW HLG SHOULD PROCEED, (4) VACANCY IN POSITION OF CHIEF NAPO CONTRACTS, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION, (5) NAPO REQUEST THAT NATIONS PROVIDE TO NAPO INPUTS ON APPROPRIATE COMPANIES FOR REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS (REP) AND A MOD COL-LABORATION CONTACT POINT BY JULY 7, 1975. END SUMMARY.
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PAGE 02 NATO 03761 151920Z

1. THE NATO AEW STEERING COMMITTEE/CNAD HIGH LEVEL GROUP MET AT NATO HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS ON 2 JULY 75. ALL CNAD NATIONS, EXCEPT BELGIUM AND TURKEY, AND SHAPE, SACLANT, IMS, AND IS WERE REPRESENTED. MAJ GEN K. RUSSELL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

AFRDP, WAS THE US REPRESENTATIVE.

2. THE FIVE PREFINANCING NATIONS MET IN RESTRICTED SESSION PRIOR TO THE MAIN MEETING. FRANCE STEADFASTLY MAINTAINED THAT ITS TOTAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CD STUDIES AND ADMIN COSTS WAS LIMITED TO $100 K. IT WAS FINALLY AGREED THAT THE US WOULD PREFINANCE THE $2.5M FOR THE STUDY OF THE AIRBORNE SEGMENT, THE FRG AND UK WOULD SHARE THE GROUND SEGMENT STUDY COSTS OF $500 K IN APPROXIMATELY A 50/50 RATIO, AND THE CANADIANS WOULD CONTRIBUTE $200 K AND FRENCH $100 K TOWARD THE NAPO SUPPORT COSTS. THIS LEAVES A SHORT FALL OF $100 K TOWARD THE ESTIMATED SUPPORT COSTS OF $400 K. THE GROUP DECIDED THAT THE $300 K WOULD BE MORE THAN ADEQUATE TO CARRY THE NAPO INTO NEXT YEAR AND THE QUESTION OF THE REMAINING SUPPORT COSTS COULD BE READDRESSED AFTER THE DEC 75 MINISTERIALS. A SMALL EDITING GROUP HEADED BY THE FRG WILL CONSOLIDATE TWO MOU'S PROPOSED BY THE US AND FRG AND CIRCULATE THE REVISED MOU TO PREFINANCING NATIONS IN TWO WEEKS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ACHIEVING A FINAL SIGNED MOU BY OR AT THE 30 JULY MEETING.

3. THE MAIN GROUP APPROVED THE PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND PROGRAM OFFICE WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS. THE TERM PROVISIONAL WILL BE INCLUDED IN PARENTHESIS BEHIND ALL REFERENCES TO THE NAPO AND THE ACRONYM AEW (AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING) WILL BE USED IN LIEU OF AWACS IN NAPO AND ALL REFERENCES TO THE NATO PROGRAM. THE GROUP DECIDED IT HAD BEEN PREMATURE IN RECONSTITUTING ITSELF INTO A STEERING COMMITTEE AT THE 6 JUNE 75 MEETING BECAUSE OF CERTAIN FINANCIAL AND ADMIN-ISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS AND ELECTED TO REMAIN AS A HIGH LEVEL GROUP (HLG) UNDER THE CNAD.

4. THROUGHOUT THE MEETING THE CHAIRMAN PROVIDED IDEAS AND GUIDANCE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES ON HOW AND TOWARD WHAT THE HLG SHOUULD PROCEED:
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PAGE 03 NATO 03761 151920Z

A. THE MAIN TASK IS TO PUT A PRACTICAL PROPOSAL BEFORE MINISTERS IN DEC 75 - NOT ONE WHICH FORCES MINISTERS TO ASSESS TRADE-OFFS OR CHOOSE AMONG TOO MANY OPTIONS. THE CHAIRMAN WOULD LIKE TO SEE A SKELETON OUTLINE OF THE REPORT TO MINISTERS BY THE NEXT MEETING IN ORDER TO FOCUS EFFORTS AND REDUCE DISCUSSION OF GENERALITIES.

B. WHILE BOEING IS LOOKING AT THE ENGINEERING/ COST TRADE-OFFS OF NATO ENHANCEMENTS, THE NAPO AND NMAS MUST JOINTLY ASSESS THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE EN-HANCEMENTS. THE RESULTING RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINISTERS FROM THE MA'S AND HLG MUST MUTUALLY SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AND MUST BE SPECIFIC, NOT ILLUSTRATIVE. THE PRACTICAL QUESTION - WHAT CAN NATO AFFORD? - MUST BE CONSIDERED IN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

ALL MA AND HLG JUDGEMENTS.

C. MINISTERS WILL NEED TO KNOW THE TIME SCALE
ASSOCIATED WITH LIABILITY FOR LONG-LEAD TIME FUNDING
(I.E., RATE OF COMMITMENT). CONSIDERING THE VERY SHORT
DECISION TIME SCALES, MINISTERS WILL NEED TO KNOW THE
PENALTIES INCURRED BY DELAYED DECISIONS (ON THE ORDER OF
3-6 MONTHS DELAYS). ALSO, WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF
A NO DECISION?

D. THE TARGET FOR COPRODUCTION MUST BE THE MAX-
IMUM POSSIBLE WITH A MINIMUM OF 25 PCT. THE GROUP SHOULD
NOT BE CONTENT TO ALLOW BOEING TO BE THE FINAL ARBITRATOR
ON COPRODUCTION/COLLABORATION. THE POSSIBILITY OF READUCING
BOP PROBLEMS AND INCREASING THE EUROPEAN SHARE OF THE EFFORT
BY USING REFURBISHED EUROPEAN COMMERCIAL 707 AIRFRAMES WAS
MENTIONED. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS POINT AND THE POINT IN
3.E. BELOW THE US REPRESENTATIVE SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF
CONVERTING EUROPEAN 707'S INTO TANKERS TO EXTEND PATROL
ENDURANCE AND REDUCE AEW FORCE SIZE REQUIREMENTS.

E. THE IDEA OF PROVIDING SACEUR AND SACLANT/CINCHAN
WITH SEPARATE FORCES APPEARS BEYOND THE REALM OF ECONOMIC
POSSIBILITY. SOME IMAGINATIVE THINKING IS REQUIRED TO FIND
WAYS FOR THE MNC'S TO SHARE A POOLED FORCE AND REDUCE THE
TOTAL FORCE SIZE REQUIREMENTS. THE QUESTION OF FORCE SIZE
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PAGE 04 NATO 03761 151920Z

IS CIRCULAR, IE THE MC NEEDS A FORCE SIZE AS A DEPARTURE
POINT FOR A STUDY OF THE OVERALL AIR DEFENSE "MIX" OF WEAPONS
SYSTEMS WHILE THE RESULTS FROM THIS AND OTHER STUDIES ARE
REQUIRED TO DETERMINE FORCE SIZE. THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE
SUGGESTED THE HLG CONSIDER ONE OPTION WHICH INCLUDES AIRCRAFT
FOR NORTH AMERICA. THE CHAIRMAN ASKED WHAT WOULD BE THE
STATUS AND ROLE OF THE US NATIONAL FORCE?

F. THE QUESTION OF WHICH COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE IN
A PROGRAM VERSUS NATIONAL COST SHARES IS ALSO CIRCULAR AND
THE HLG CANNOT PROVIDE THE FINAL ANSWER. MINISTERS AND
NATIONAL STAFFS WILL SPEND MANY HOURS ARGUING THIS AFTER
RECIVING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE HLG/CNAD.

5. THE CHAIRMAN MADE AN IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR SOME NATION
TO FILL THE VACANCY IN THE POSITION OF CHIEF, NAPO CONTRACTS,
MANAGEMENT, AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION. ITALY STATED IT COULD
NOT PROVIDE ANY PERSONNEL TO THE NAPO AND WAS STILL CONSIDER-
ING ITS POSITION ON FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION. NO COUNTRY
VOLUNTEERED.

6. THE PROGRAM MANAGER REQUESTED THAT A CONTACT BE
NAMED IN EACH MOD FOR COORDINATING LOGISTIC/MAINTAINANCE/
TRAINING MATTERS.

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7. THE NAPO PRESENTED A BRIEF OUTLINE AND SYSTEM BREAK-

DOWN FOR COPRODUCTION/COLLABORATION POSSIBILITIES. NATIONS WERE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE INPUTS ON APPROPRIATE COMPANIES FOR RFP'S AND A MOD COLLABORATION CONTACT POINT TO THE NAPO BY 7 JULY. THE NAPO HAS RECEIVED SEPARATE COMMUNICATIONS FROM PORTUGAL AND BELGIUM SAYING THAT PORTUGAL DID NOT WISH TO BE CONSIDERED FOR SYSTEM COLLABORATION POSSIBILITIES, AND THAT BELGIUM DID. COMMENT: THIS MAY BE A VEHICLE TO PERSUADE BELGIM WHO IS NOT REPRESENTED IN THE HLG, TO BECOME A PARTICIPANT. END COMMENT.

8. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HLG WILL BE ON 30 JULY 75 AT NATO HQS.BRUCE

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